

Applicant: G. Triantopoulos et al.
Application Serial No.: 10/654,638
Filing Date: September 4, 2003
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REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9, 14-20 remain pending in the application. Claims 5, 6, 7, 8 and 18 have been amended without adding new matter. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-9 are indicated as being allowable on the prior art of record by the Examiner. This determination is gratefully acknowledged.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 5-9 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the specification does not provide a detailed description to support the claimed subject matter of "a pair of legs being located at opposite ends of the body" as claimed in claim 5 and 18. Claims 5 and 18 have been amended to clearly define the location of the pair of legs. The support of the same can be found on page 3, lines 10-11 of the specification. Furthermore, as shown in the drawings, the legs 14 and 16 are located at opposite ends of the body, thereby defining a generally U-shaped configuration. Therefore, this rejection of claims 5, 6 and 18-20 is obviated.

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Additionally, the Examiner asserts that the specification does not provide a support for the claimed subject matter of "each of said slots being configured to receive a respective bus bar therein" and "when said body is deformed to initiate a partial crimp between the body and the conductor within said at least one aperture, said open ended slots are slightly opened to receive the respective bus bars therein as claimed in claim 7. Claim 7 has been amended to clarify that one of the slots receives a bus bar therein. Therefore, this rejection of claims 7-9 is obviated.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection of Claims 5, 6 and 18-20

The Examiner has rejected claims 5, 6 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schrader (U.S. Patent 5,103,068) in view of Park (U.S. Patent 5,936,200).

Claims 5 and 18 as amended recite a ground connector with a deformable conductive body having a pair of legs located at opposite ends of the body defining a generally U-shaped configuration with legs defining a central slot configured to receiving a bus bar therein. A plurality of teeth project into the slot for electrical connection of the bus bar and the body. The body also includes a pair of shoulders projecting outwardly from a lower end of the body. Additionally, at lest one aperture is located adjacent one of

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the shoulders to receive a conductor therein so that when body is deformed at the shoulders to initiate a crimp between the conductor and the body, the slot is slightly opened to receive the bus bar therein.

Schrader discloses a connector having slots or channels for insertion of cables or conductors into the connector. Additionally, a groove is provided in one or more surfaces of the connector and an elongated tying device is press-fitted into the groove. This tying device extends sufficiently enough so as to be twisted around to the ends of conductors preparatory to the crimping process.

Park shows a wire connector including a plurality of teeth for gripping and holding the wire.

The connector disclosed in Schrader clearly differs from the ground connector disclosed and claimed in the present invention. The Examiner relies on Figure 3 of Schrader to reject claims 5 and 18. However, the connector in Figure 3 is an H-frame connector with a surface in the middle (36, 38) and on the sides (40), and slots (32, 34) on each side. Schrader fails to show a pair of shoulders projecting outwardly from a lower end of the body as recited in amended claims 5 and 18 of the present invention.

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Furthermore, Schrader fails to show at least one aperture located adjacent to one of the shoulders as recited in amended claims 5 and 18 of the present invention.

Neither of the references Schrader nor Park, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a pair of shoulders projecting outwardly from a lower end of the connector body with body being deformed at the shoulders to initiate a partial crimp between the body and the conductor as disclosed and claimed in the present invention. Therefore claims 5, 6 and 18-20 define patentability over the cited combination.

Double Patenting Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 4, and 14-17

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 4 and 14-17 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 3 of U.S. Patent No. 6,649,840. Enclosed herewith is a terminal disclaimer pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c) disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent issuing on the present application which would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patent No. 6,649,840.

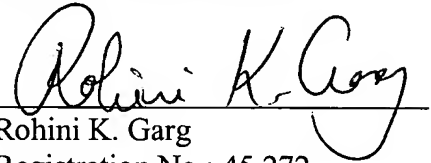
Having overcome the cited reference by submission of a timely filed terminal disclaimer, Applicant respectfully request that the double patenting rejection be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks above, Applicants deems this application, including claims 1, 3-9 and 14-20, is in condition for allowance and solicits such action. In the event that any issues remain following entry of this amendment, Applicants' agent respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned agent at the telephone number given below for either a personal or telephone interview if the Examiner believes that such would expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rohini K. Garg", written over a horizontal line.

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